

COLBERT COUNTY

Honorable George E. Carpenter

Colbert County Courthouse
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Celia Rudolph
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Richard L. Gardner
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Robert Evans
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George McAdams
Dian Durdunji
Diane Pace
Emmitt Jimmar
Shelia Johnson
Ravae Weddington
Angie James
Brannon Lentz
Robert Matthews
Annetta Ethridge
June Thompson

Vista Volunteer: Melinda McCoy

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Family Resource Center
2. Helping Juveniles who are at-risk
3. Early Intervention with children 0-5

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Childhood Obesity

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Educate on health risk of obesity
- Promote increased activity in schools and at home
- Nutritional Counseling-promote classes for the public and require schools to add to the curriculum
- Parental involvement-stress the benefits of increased exercise/activity with a balanced diet

Teen Smoking

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Educate on hazards of smoking
- Introduce smoking cessation plan
- Encourage parental involvement and support

Low Birth Weight Rate for Teens

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Provide education on pregnancy prevention/dangers for teen pregnancies
- Refer to appropriate agencies to ensure prenatal care
- Encourage parental involvement

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Juvenile Substance Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Implement science-based substance abuse programs for classrooms and after school programs
- Bring in speakers to talk with students and parents at our Colbert County Youth Center
- Implement a Train-the-Trainer Program for local experienced leaders to present seminars as needed

Delinquency Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Appoint a committee to design a program
- Secure the speakers and resources
- Secure funding

Domestic Violence/Ungovernable Behavior

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Provide training for anger management/conflict resolution to parents
- Utilize Governor's Safe & Drug Free Schools & Communities program resources to teach students anger management, conflict resolution strategies

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Last Chance/Day Treatment Center for at- risk youth

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Secure funding from various sources
- Develop an Advisory Board to oversee Center
- Collaborate with other agencies to bring in programs.

Delinquency Prevention/Parent Involvement Skills

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Develop curriculum for mandatory parent education program
- Secure funding
- Develop Advisory Board to oversee program

Attendance Enhancement Program for students/parents

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Develop programs for students to help increase their attendance
- Develop programs for parents to help increase student attendance
- Work with Juvenile Court System and District Attorney

Early Care and

Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Funding for Quality Childcare

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Support current state funded Pre-K programs, Head Start and Even Start and other quality pre-school programs
- letters of support, talking to state senators and representatives on their importance
- Promote N.A.E.Y.C. accreditation for pre-schools in the area by offering mentors to help with process
- Develop a means to improve communication between childcare and public schools to improve transition and school readiness

Family Support

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Continue support and utilization of Resource Center
- Continue and expand distribution of packets to new parents at Colbert County Hospitals informing them of available services in the area
- Continue improvement of developmental screening and referral with area Pediatricians by supporting the PEDS screening tool

Early Intervention (0-5)

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Educate parents as to the developmental stages of children
- Work with area Pediatricians with identifying children with developmental needs
- Public Awareness of services available to families of children with special needs.

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Family Resource Center

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Bring together the identified resource partners to build the Resource Center
- Continue collaboration with Colbert Youth Center
- Secure funding

Families need reliable transportation

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Agencies should clearly identify the transportation needs of their client base
- collaborate with existing provider NACOLG to enhance that program
- Secure funding

Job Training Programs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Encourage youth & parents to participate in State employment training
- Increase public awareness of existing resources
- Continue and expand job training programs

Parent Involvement and Skills - Parents and

guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Coordinated Intervention for parent/child, when child is identified at risk for developmental or educational failure

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Expand existing Parent Project to serve all members of families with at-risk children
- Increase community awareness and support of Parent Project
- Formalize protocol for referrals to Parent Project from Court System, Education System and Providers

Therapeutic Day Treatment for youth with Parent Education

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Identify an appropriate service provider
- Collaboratively plan with community participants
- Write policy and protocol to assure needs will be met

Family Resource Center with education, prevention, and skill building programs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Expand our Youth Center into a full-service Family Resource Center
- Collaborate with faith-based community for funding and support
- Initiate child/parent involvement programs and activities.

Policy Recommendation

1. Increase tobacco funding for teen smoking/drug abuse prevention
2. Funding for abstinence program
3. First time offender program funding with state protocol
4. Anger Management programs mandated through school extra-curricular
5. State mandate and funding for Last Chance/Day Treatment Center
6. State mandate for Parent Education and Training with at-risk youth.
7. Fund our Resource Center. Reliable funding will insure consistent delivery of services.
8. Transportation is a multi-jurisdictional issue. State support is required through legislation and revenue
9. Fund quality child-care for low-income/single parents
10. Mandate education on health risks, life long responsibilities, and legal teen sexual activity.

Accomplishments

1. Completed Levels Training with CPC
2. Have just acquired 501 (c) (3) status from an attorney pro bono
3. Published newspaper articles in local paper
4. CPC collaborated on writing the UPS Grant
5. Started Parent Project
6. Beginning Adolescent Classes With Parent Project
7. Pursuing free books from Dollywood
8. Applied for \$5,000.00 from United Parcel Service
9. Received \$500.00 from United Parcel Service
10. Applied for \$2,000.00 grant to prevent teen pregnancy
11. Collaborated with all committees to work with Needs Assessment
12. Received \$200.00 from Civitans of Colbert County

13. Hosted a Grant Workshop to benefit the Youth Center and raised \$1,500.00
14. Acquired volunteers from RSVP Program (Retired Seniors Volunteers Program)
15. Engaged in efforts to address issues such as mentoring and tutoring to help our youth with the RSVP Program
16. Web-site updated and being utilized for the CPC

Additional Colbert County Children's Policy Council Members:

Ron Collier

Shelia Weaver

Green Fountain

Stella Berry

Becky Porter

Julee Crowe

Gloria Smith

Patrick Kelly